**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The Weary Blues

Langston Hughes

(1923)

1          Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,

2          Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon,

3              I heard a Negro play.

4          Down on Lenox Avenue the other night

5          By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light

6              He did a lazy sway ....

7              He did a lazy sway ....

8          To the tune o' those Weary Blues.

9          With his ebony hands on each ivory key

10        He made that poor piano moan with melody.

11            O Blues!

12        Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool

13        He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool.

14            Sweet Blues!

15        Coming from a black man's soul.

16            O Blues!

17        In a deep song voice with a melancholy tone

18        I heard that Negro sing, that old piano moan--

19            "Ain't got nobody in all this world,

20            Ain’g got nobody but ma self.

21             I's gwine to quit ma frownin'

22             And put ma troubles on the shelf."

23        Thump, thump, thump, went his foot on the floor.

24        He played a few chords then he sang some more--

25            "I got the Weary Blues

26            And I can't be satisfied.

27            Got the Weary Blues

28            And can't be satisfied--

29            I ain't happy no mo'

30            And I wish that I had died."

31        And far into the night he crooned that tune.

32        The stars went out and so did the moon.

33        The singer stopped playing and went to bed

34        While the Weary Blues echoed through his head.

35        He slept like a rock or a man that's dead.

**Please answer the following questions:**

1. What do the words *droning, drowsy, mellow* and *croon* tell the reader about the song?
2. How does Hughes describe the tune being played?
3. Describe the singer’s actions as he plays the piano and sings.
4. Who does the song address?
5. What is rhythm?
6. Who utters lines 25-26, “I got the Weary Blues/And I can’t be satisfied?”
7. The lines in quotation marks (19-25) in the poem come from
8. dialogue between the speaker and the musician
9. the lyrics of the song the speaker hears
10. the title “The Weary Blues”
11. a conversation between members of the audience
12. What did the singer do after he finished playing for the evening?
13. Why do you think that Hughes chose to describe this scene in such detail?
14. Identify at least two examples of REPETITION in the poem.
15. Identify one example of a SIMILE in the poem.
16. Identify at least one example of PERSONIFICATION in the poem.
17. What is the difference between END RHYME and INTERNAL RHYME?
18. Identify at least one example of strong IMAGERY in the poem.
19. The opening lines (“Droning...croon”) are describing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
20. What might the “Weary Blues” be a symbol for in the poem?
21. What happens to the musician at the end of the poem?
22. What themes does this poem explore?
23. Langston Hughes once said, “I am ashamed for the black poet who says, „I want to be a poet, not a Negro poet.‟” What did he mean by this?

Match each vocabulary word with the word or phrase closest in meaning.

20. syncopated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a. extreme paleness

21. croon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. sequence of notes; a tune

22. pallor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. having a beat with unusual accents

23. melody \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d. sorrowful

24. melancholy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e. “bluesy” song

Define the following words:

**25. Denotation:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**26. Connotation:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Explain the denotation and connotation of all of the vocabulary words.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Vocabulary** | What is the connotation? | What is the denotation? |
| 27. | syncopated |  |  |
| 28. | croon |  |  |
| 29. | pallor |  |  |
| 30. | melody |  |  |
| 31. | melancholy |  |  |